



# The Transformer

October 2012

717-866-4910

*Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA*

Words matter...

These were the words of advice from St. Paul to the congregation in Thessalonica. And they are words of advice for any church in any place at any time. They are words for us to live by...

St. Paul writes: *So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you will all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.*

(1 Thessalonians 5:10-11 The Message)



We tend to forget that our words have power. What we say can build up people or tear down people. Words really are the keys for life. Have you ever considered that what you say and how you say it matters? Consider these words of advice from Proverbs.

Proverbs 12:18 reads...

*The words of the reckless pierce like swords,  
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

Proverbs 16:24 reads...

*Gracious words are a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*

I am still learning that we need to choose our words carefully because our words have power. Here's how our words work:

1. You say this...



2. They hear this...



*(continued on next page)*



3. It meant this much to you...



4. It meant this much to them...



Our words matter as parents, friends, neighbors, students, teachers, bosses, employees, husbands, wives, disciples... I've learned that we need to choose our words carefully. Jesus did!

Peace,  
Pastor Miller

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Global Missions is collecting: new bars of soap, quilts 60" x 70" and blankets 60" x 70". **Oct. 7** is last day to collect.

**SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS**

October 8

Mrs. Anna Horst  
101 E. Reistville Road  
Myerstown, PA 17067

October 16

Mr. Isaac Villanueva  
215 S. Cherry Street  
Myerstown, PA 17067

**MONTHLY FREE MEAL**

Myerstown United Church of Christ will again host a monthly free meal on the second Thursday of every month beginning in September and ending with the May meal. It is our way as a congregation, to reach out to our community in Christian love. Everyone is welcome. The meal hours are 4 PM-7 PM. We appreciate your willingness to share in this outreach. Please contact the church office, 866-5252, if you have any questions.





**For all families** who have children in the Children's Ministry program, including what we referred to as nursery, we have made some changes to the age groups. All children who enter school this year in first grade through 5th grade will be Elementary (green room); all who enter kindergarten this fall will be Kindergarten (blue room); all children younger than entering Kindergarten will be Pre-school. The pre-school children will go to the pink and yellow rooms. These rooms will be opened up and there will be a quiet area and a play area. There will be at least two people assigned to those rooms. You may take your pre-schooler to the room prior to church service or the teachers will escort them to the room after the pastor gives the Children's Message during service. Any questions please ask Lynn Appleby, Missy Krause, Jill Kreider, or Amber Miller.



**MISSION WORK-** Have you ever wanted to go on the mission trip but you can not travel? Well we have a mission right here in town. We will be helping out at the **Bahney House, every third Saturday of the morning of the month. We will post the project of the morning and a sign up sheet in the hall near the Mission board. Please consider this part of our church family being the hands and feet of Christ going over the fence in our community. Please see Jon Koller or Jan Dubois for more details.**



The Bible Study Class, located in the library, meeting from 8-9 A.M., will be starting a study in James on October 7. All are welcome

Our Bible Study!

*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**

Thank you for showing you care and concern during the loss of my sweet sister Sharon Hain. You were there for the family in our time of need with cards, telephone calls, flowers, food, visits and most of all your prayers.

Carol Hartlieb



If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia to place in the church for Christmas, now is the time to do so. To order, please use the envelopes provided on the narthex bulletin board and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$6.50 each. Your order will need to be placed by November 12. You have a choice of color: red, white, marble or pink.

# OCTOBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	4 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	5	6
7 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	8  Columbus Day	9 7 PM—Property Committee	10 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir	11 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	12	13
14 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	15 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Parlor	16	17 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir	18 6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	19	20
21 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	22	23	24 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir	25 7 PM—Anniversary Committee 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	26	27
28  9 AM—Reformation Day Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	29	30	31 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir			

**DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP****October 7<sup>th</sup> December 9<sup>th</sup>****7 Reasons why you should to join a LIFE group.....**

**Relationships:** A LIFE Group gives you the opportunity to get to know people at a more intimate level. Sunday mornings are an awesome time to worship with the whole family of God, hear a sermon, engage in corporate vision, but a LIFE Group gives you a chance to build deeper friendships.

**Learning the Word of God:** Sunday's sermon is a great time to get a broad teaching of the Word of God. However, LIFE Groups provide time for one on one discussion. Your group can provide

*Fall Semester LIFE group*

a time to clarify answers to questions from Sunday's sermon.

**Opportunity to Serve Others:** One of the greatest joys of being in a LIFE Group is the chance to bear others burdens, serve their needs, and step out beyond your own issues.

**Place to invite friends:** A LIFE group is a natural place to invite friends and family. Sometimes people are more comfortable going to a small group then attending a Sunday morning service.

**Place to Pray and Share your needs:** A gathering of a few people is a natural environment for prayer. A big part of prayer is conversation with God and LIFE Groups provide the perfect environment for communing with God.

**Engage in worship:** Gathering in a LIFE group allows you to experience worship at a very intimate level.

**Follow the New Testament pattern:** Acts 2:42-47 gives us a blueprint of what the early church was passionately committed to. The early Christ Followers gathered in homes, shared meals, read the Word, prayed, and worshipped. When you participate in a LIFE group you are following the New Testament pattern.

- **Jon Koller –(General group)- Open to all**

**Wednesday evenings 7 pm -8:30 pm**

**Location the church parlor 301 West**

**Washington Ave Myerstown**

**Sermon Based Study – Group will explore our sermon**

**scriptures and go deeper into the study topics**

(continued next page)

• **Robert & Valerie Hauck** –

**(General Group) Open to all**

**Thursday evenings 7pm -8:30pm**

**Location the church parlor 301 West Washington Ave  
Myerstown**

**Our study will be “ Not a Fan ” Twenty times in the new testament , Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He’s not interested in mere fans. He doesn’t want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers. This study examines what it means to deny one’s self and truly follow Jesus.**

**If you are interested in getting connected to God &**

**ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE OCTOBER INSTALLMENT OF YOU ARE THERE:**

Harvest Home:

New England has its Thanksgiving; the Pennsylvania Dutch had Harvest Home. The New England festival, which has become the National Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November, celebrated the Pilgrim Father’s gratitude for deliverance in the new homeland. Harvest Home, on the other hand was a late summer or early fall festival, held by the Pennsylvania Dutch—the Lutheran and Reformed—in celebration of God’s goodness to them during harvest time (Don Yoder, PA Folklife 7/64, Vol. 13 #4).

Pennsylvania Harvest Home was once in the farming community of the Myerstown area, more important to the local congregation than the November Thanksgiving Day, which was looked upon as a dubious and unnecessary, almost resented, Yankee gift. As a farm community, Friedens Lutheran Church in Myerstown gave their thanks to God for the summer’s harvest at their annual Harvest Home. Hence for many years they felt no need of celebrating the Yankee Thanksgiving.

The local Dutchman called Harvest Home either Arn-karrich (literally Harvest Church or Harvest Service) or Arnbreddich (Harvest Sermon) (Don Yoder). At the service, held on a Sunday or weekday, any time from late summer through mid-fall, Friedens was lavishly decorated with greenery, cornstalks, and sheaves of wheat, loaves of bread, and the fruits and vegetables of the harvest. It was almost as if the forest had come to church.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a project of Friedens Women of the ELCA through which we hope to extend our caring and God’s love through the warmth and comfort of a shawl. With a prayerful attitude, shawls are knitted or crocheted at home. At our meetings, we gather in a circle, touching the shawls and offering prayers on behalf of the knitters/ crocheters and those who will receive these gifts. When presented, a shawl becomes a reminder of God’s presence and the love, concern and prayers of our congregation.

The Ministry is in its sixth year and, to date, 80 shawls have been presented.

You can participate in weaving prayers and yarn into shawls by:

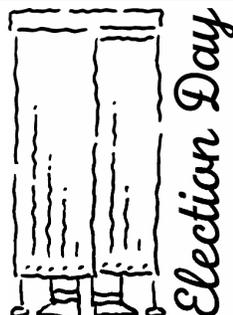
- Praying for this caring ministry
- Knitting/crocheting shawls
- Providing a monetary gift for purchasing yarn
- Donating yarn (3 skeins per shawl)

Questions can be answered and patters provided by contacting: Sr. Janice Ruch, Clara Grumbine or Janet Kehrli

**OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**August 2012**

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,258.00	Goal to Date	\$ 210,064.00
\$315,093.00	Rec'd	\$23,874.00	Rec'd to Date	206,590.00
Spang Crest	Rec'd	24.00	Rec'd to Date	500.00
Hunger	Rec'd	225.00	Rec'd to Date	2,055.00



Anyone needing a ride to the Department of Transportation to get a voter ID so they can vote in November contact Elaine Lasch at 866-6742.





**Yard Work  
Volunteers**

**FRIEDENS GARDEN GROUP**

Objective: To maintain and beautify landscaping of the church.

Duties: Edge, mulch and weed existing landscaping.  
Trim and maintain shrubbery.

Option: Plant, water and deadhead annuals.

Time required: No monthly meeting.  
Work “as needed” when called by facilitator.

All work to be coordinated through Property Committee.  
Sign up on sheet on bulletin board in the hallway.

Facilitator: Joel Zinn, 866-4420.



**Food  
Collection**

On Sunday, October 7, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. In honor of our 200th Anniversary our goal each month is 200 lbs. of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. We collected 97 pounds of food in September.



**Coffee Fellowship**

What a wonderful time of fellowship we share after worship in fellowship hall. A time to mingle and catch up with members and a great opportunity to welcome our visitors.

We are looking for volunteers to host the coffee social. There is not a lot of work involved, the coffee is provided, you just need to prepare the coffee and provide a snack to share. Won't you please consider hosting the fellowship. A sign-up sheet is on the table in fellowship hall. If you have any questions you can talk to Annette Beamesderfer, Carmela Deck or Susie Harper.



I am very thankful for all the people of Friedens and what they did for me after my surgery.

Pastor Miller's visit and prayer at the hospital was appreciated.

The cards, visits, prayers, phone calls and food at Hyman Caplan and at home was very much appreciated.

I can't thank everyone enough.

God bless you all!  
Sincerely,  
Arabelle Yarnall





Make your plans now for our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, November 3, starting at 3:30 P.M. we will have Dawn and Randy Marks providing the Friedens Family with a special Anniversary Concert. At 5 P.M. we will have dinner with the following menu: Roast Beef or Filled Chicken, vegetables including filling, broccoli Normandy, and cole slaw; rolls; coffee and Wenger drinks. The price is \$10 for members 13 years and older; \$9 for children 8 to 13 years; \$8 for children 3 to 8 years old and children under 3 for free. That evening we will have a multi-media presentation of our 200 years as a congregation. Tickets will be available at the church office starting August 5th..



**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**September 20, 2012**

President Bruce Kauffman called the meeting to order at 6:52 PM.

**Present:** Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Chris Heft, Bruce Kauffman (President), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer (Secretary), and Pastor Miller.

**Excused:** Jeff Gumpert (Vice President), and Dense Noll.

Bruce Kauffman offered the opening Prayer and led the devotional reading from 2 Corinthians 11:3. Discussion followed based on two questions: What do you hear God saying to you “personally” in this text? What do you hear God saying to you “as a Church” in this text?

1. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

- a. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept August Minutes. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Jody Appleby made a motion to accept August Financial Secretary’s report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept August Treasurer’s report. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Attendance noted: spelling correction of August.

2. Pastor’s Report:

- a. Five Baptisms for Sunday, September 23, 2012.

**9:00 AM** Charlotte Rose Andrews-Weber  
 Cooper Benjamin Rainer  
 Daulton Brian Faust

**10:00 AM** Ronan Shea Gerhart  
 Cadance Rae Kolva

- b. Year of ReFORMATION (handout)
- c. Election of Bishop at LSS Assembly in June 2013.

3. Communications:

- a. Thank you letter from Luthercare in August for a gift to Spang Crest for \$89.00.

4. Seeding the Future:

- a. Pastor Miller made a motion to participate in “Seeding the Future,” campaign. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.

5. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer  
 Council Secretary

## Worship Series for October 2012 will focus on Abundant Life...

That's what disciples of Jesus are promised. So why do so many of us seem to experience less? Talk shows and the self-help section of every bookstore offer a thousand trendy ways to get more out of life, but those who drink from those fountains often find themselves every bit as thirsty as before. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount not only describes a life of joy, peace and contentment, it also illuminates the way. Jesus calls us to repent, to turn our lives and align them with God's Kingdom movement. In doing so, we experience less of those things that drain us of life, and more of the abundance that Jesus promises.



### September 30                      **KINGDOM LIFE: MORE OR LESS**                      **Matthew 4: 12-17**

The good news according to Jesus is this: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near." In Jesus, something radically new has broken into this world, and into our lives.

### October 7, 2012                      **MORE GOD, LESS ME**                      **Matthew 5:1-12**

The secret of abundant, Kingdom living begins with this counter-cultural reality: more of God and less of self is the foundation of real joy. The good news of the Kingdom is that God inhabits even the darkest places of life, so even in hardship and suffering there is joy. In fact, it is often life's hardships that strip away self, revealing the beauty of God's presence.

### October 14                      **MORE PURPOSE, LESS POWERLESSNESS**                      **Matthew 5:13-16**

We all long to make a difference in this world. Using metaphors of salt and light, Jesus describes the impact disciples have. We are, by God's grace, people of purpose!

### October 21                      **MORE RECONCILIATION, LESS ANGER**                      **Matthew 5:21-26**

Broken relationships are the source of some of our greatest pain. Reconciled with God through Christ, disciples are empowered to be people who live in reconciling relationships.

### October 28 (Reformation)                      **MORE FAITHFULNESS, LESS BROKENNESS**                      **Matthew 5:27-32**

We worship a faithful God who calls and empowers us to live faithfully in relationship to others. While marriage is the central context for these verses, disciples are called to faithfulness of heart and mind in all relationships.



The church office is open  
from 9 AM— 1 PM  
Monday-Friday.